

Weekly re:Cap



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“Looking to the Future Together”

By John Aherne OFM

Over 100 friars from the three branches of the Franciscan first order converged in a spirit of fraternity and joy at the Catholic Theological Union here on Nov. 4, 2017, to attend “Looking to the Future Together: Beyond *Ite Vos*.”

This Franciscan study day was convened after Pope Francis urged friars to work together for an “authentic and profound reconciliation” of the three branches of the first order in the hopes that such unity would renew the power of the spirit of Francis and Clare in the modern world. The day was organized by Franciscan Joseph Rozansky, Conventual Michael Kolodziej and Capuchin John Celichowski.



Dominic Monti, OFM

After a powerful prayer service developed by friars in formation, Franciscan Dominic Monti began the session with “The History and Context of *Ite Vos*,” placing the papal bull, which formally divided the First Order into the first two separate obediences, into its historical and cultural context. In doing so, he brought to light the common values of fraternity, minority, conversion, and mission that the branches share.



This set the stage for “Common Franciscan Values,” during which Capuchin Regis Armstrong highlighted the ways in which Francis of Assisi was open to the revelation of the Lord when dealing with this brothers. Regis also commented on Francis’s use of John 17:11 (“may they be one, as we are one”) in the Early Documents.

Conventual Jude Winkler rounded out the morning with “Common Franciscan Projects,” by raising up some of the inter-obediential work that is already being done in the order, including Franciscans International, the Franciscan Action Network, the consolidation of the Antonionum and Seraphicum in Rome, inter-obediential intentional communities, and coordinated formation programs in places like California and Zambia.

In describing the bridge building being done by the ministers general and their councils in Rome, Jude pointed out that “sometimes more work gets done over the picnic table than at the conference table.”

This proved to be the case in Chicago as well. During the breaks, lunch, and the small group discussions in the afternoon, the friars from the three branches ate, got to know one another, and brought to life the common fraternity they already share. In addition to sparking some ideas about how the three branches might work together—many involved social media and even more involved food—these informal times and sessions were

clear indicators of the shared spirit of Gospel joy that burns in the hearts of the brothers, no matter what branch.

Capuchin Vito Martinez was particularly inspired by the practical bent of the study day. “I felt that the symposium wasn’t just an opportunity to think about an abstract future of collaboration but I had the chance to network with other friars who shared similar ministries. I’m hopeful that opportunities of collaboration can occur at the local level.”

It also sparked some serious questions about the work we as Franciscans are called to do moving forward. We acknowledged the scarcity of brothers devoting themselves to the Franciscan intellectual tradition and were challenged to think more deeply about how well we were living out our charism and what kind of prophetic voice a unified Franciscan family might be able to raise, especially in the midst of the toxic political climate in the United States.

In thinking about the symposium further, Franciscan Joe Nangle questioned, “After hearing in great detail the history of *Ite Vos*, it would be interesting to speculate on what Pope Francis would write if he issued a similar call today. Might he not say: ‘Three families or one, go out as Franciscans and smell like the sheep’?”

While working on the Early Documents, Regis Armstrong came to the realization that what the text taught him about the Franciscan charism was being lived out in the experience of working on the texts in an inter-obediential team. This was also the case during the *Ite Vos* study day. In learning and discussing that which divided us, we wound up celebrating that which unites us and put ourselves on the path of even greater unity.

John Aherne is a Franciscan friar currently studying at CTU in Chicago. Documents from the study day will be posted on the “Continuing Formation” page of our website, when available. This article was reprinted, with permission, from the U.S. Franciscans website.

The Jesuit martyrs of El Salvador

November 16th will mark twenty-eight years since Ignacio Ellacuría, Ignacio Martín-Baró, Segundo Montes, Juan Ramón Moreno, Joaquín López y López, Amando López, and their housekeeper Elba Ramos, and her 15 year-old daughter Celina Ramos, were murdered at the University of Central America in San Salvador, El Salvador.



The lives and loss of these martyrs have significantly influenced the Ignatian family in the United States and throughout the world. Jesuit institutions have re-defined what it is to be universities, high schools, parishes, etc., in light of the martyrs, discerning new ways of addressing issues of social justice locally and abroad. Across the Ignatian family new ways of proceeding have developed over the course of twenty-eight years. Ignatian Solidarity Network is a direct product of the spirit of the martyrs, forming in response to their tragic deaths at the hands of many individuals who received training at the former U.S. Army School of the Americas.

Province honors

Eucharistic Mission Band

On 28 October, the Eucharistic Mission Band in Detroit celebrated the 100th anniversary of their founding. Originally begun as an apostolate of the Third Order in 1917, today the EMB continues their ministry of supporting missionaries, priests, and religious around the world by sewing vestments, church appointments and altar cloths, and providing chalices to those who can not afford them. David Preuss presided at a Mass of Thanksgiving, assisted by Jason Graves serving as deacon, in which the eleven members of the Mission Band were recognized for their tremendous work throughout the years. Nine of the eleven members were in attendance, and they were presented with certificates of appreciation signed by Michael Sullivan (provincial minister), and each were also gifted with a medal depicting soon-to-be-Blessed Solanus Casey. *Weekly re:Cap* offers prayerful best wishes to the women of the Eucharistic Mission Band as they continue to celebrate 100 years of ministry!



Nine members of the Eucharistic Mission Band, with Jason Graves (left) and David Preuss.

World Day of the Poor: 19 November

"We are called to draw near to the poor, to encounter them, to meet their gaze, to embrace them and to let them feel the warmth of love that breaks through their solitude. Their outstretched hand is also an invitation to step out of our certainties and comforts, and to acknowledge the value of poverty itself...If we want to help change history and promote real development, we need to hear the cry of the poor and commit ourselves to ending their marginalization." ~ Pope Francis





My warmest thanks to you, my Capuchin brothers, affiliates and sisters and brothers sharing in the life and spirit of our fraternity. Your words of comfort and loving support at the death of my sister, Jeanne, are food for the journey through this personal and family transition. May the Good Spirit nourish and encourage you on your journeys. ~ Jerome Schroeder



Happy Thanksgiving!

November

- 15 PR Zoom/Video Conference
- 18 ★ **Beatification of Solanus Casey, Detroit**
- 19 ★ **World Day of the Poor**
- 22 PR Zoom/Video Conference
- 23 **Thanksgiving**
- 24 **Francis Voris (B)**
Mark Joseph Costello (B)
- 25 **Faris Najor (B)**
- 27 **Formation Council Zoom/Video Conference**
- 29 **Alan Veik (B)**
- 29-30 **Pro Council, Chicago**
- 30 **Jerry Smith (B)**

Blessed are they in Sutherland Springs

Blessed are they who are devastated,
~ for theirs is the realm of heaven.

Blessed are they who grieve for this country,
~ for they shall be comforted.

Blessed they who are nonviolent,
~ for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they who long for a culture of peace
~ for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are they who seek healing, not revenge,
~ for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are they who desire only blessing for all,
~ for they shall see God.

Blessed are they who work for the healing of the
world,
~ for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who meet opposition
in their work for peace and justice,
~ for theirs is the realm of heaven.

Blessed are you when people dismiss
and insult you.

Rejoice, and be glad:
great is your reward in the heart of all things,
for in just this way they persecuted the prophets
who were before you.

~ Steve Garnaas-Holmes

